

State of New Hampshire
Inter-Department Communication

Date: April 15, 2008

From: Paul Currier
Bureau Administrator

At (Office): Environmental Services
Watershed Management

Subject: Notes from 4/14/2008 WQSAC Lakes Nutrient Criteria Workgroup Meeting

To: files

Discussion topics were from NH Lakes (Jeff Schloss) letter to Paul Currier dated 12/7/2007

Paul gave a powerpoint presentation, including an overview of:

- Federal antidegradation rule provisions
- State antidegradation rule provisions
- Guidance needed for implementation
- Draft guidance published to date

The meeting voted to ask Bill Smith to continue as chairperson.

Discussion:

NH Lakes objects to the way a lake [P] value was developed for Perkins Pond (in a draft document) by using the interim 15ug/l chlorophyll a criterion and Phil Trowbridge's analysis of NH lake data to estimate a relationship between chlorophyll a and [P]. They believe the resulting [P] value of 20 ug/l is not protective enough. They also object to the "20% window" for insignificant degradation of high quality waters in the antidegradation rule, because it will ultimately result in significant degradation, and lower water quality down to the standard, in the extreme case. This is not the intent of antidegradation.

Paul discussed the possible use of Outstanding Resource Water designation, or the factors in the rule that would close the "20% window".

It was discussed that the 15ug/l chlorophyll a criterion is for swimming use, based on perception of good swimming water. DES intends to develop a separate criterion for aquatic life use (ALUS). We have not developed a detailed method for this yet. Our current Nutrient Criteria plan calls for developing biological metrics and a WQS threshold for ALUS, and then relating [P] to the metrics. The current plan does not propose to use the EPA ecoregional results.

The meeting would like to revisit the decision not to use the EPA ecoregional results.

DES will be revising the Phil Trowbridge memo for the relationship between [P] and chlorophyll a using additional data and a refined analysis.

The workgroup will meet in June to discuss these topics.

The idea of a local initiative process to assign Outstanding Resource Water antidegradation status to waterbodies was briefly discussed. The NH Lakes Science and Research Committee intend discuss this.